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at least one other segment, whereby the length of said device is selectively variable, each of said segments comprising:

a flexible, deformable outer membrane being adapted to sealably receive a liquid[-like] material therein;

a foam core being encased [disposed] within and in intimate contact with, but not bonded to, said flexible, deformable outer membrane wherein said foam core has a dimension substantially coincident with said outer membrane;

a liquid[-like] material being sealably contained within said flexible, deformable outer membrane and saturating said foam core, said liquid[-like] material being at least partially circulatable through said foam core wherein the cooperation of said saturated foam core and said sealable flexible membrane provide a substantially uniform, thermal regulating medium and structural support such that said cushioning device is readily, uniformly deformable when a load is applied thereto;

a thermal regulating unit cooperating with the liquid material to either heat or cool the liquid material.

13. (Amended) A method for regulating the temperature of a user comprising the steps of:

bringing a portion of the body of said user in intimate contact with a cushioning device having a foam core saturated with a liquid[-like] material, said foam core [covered] encased within and in intimate contact with [by], but not bonded to a deformable, sealable flexible membrane and having a dimension substantially coincident with said outer membrane, wherein said liquid[-like] material is at least partially circulatable through said foam core and having a thermal regulating unit cooperating with the liquid material to either heat or cool the liquid material wherein the cooperation of said saturated foam core and said sealable flexible membrane provide a substantially uniform, thermal regulating medium and structural support for said user, and wherein said cushioning device is readily, uniformly deformable when a load is applied thereto.

Applicant thus respectfully submits this request for amendments to the above